

REMARKS

In the Office Action identified above¹, the Examiner rejected claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; rejected claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,164,938 to Jurkevich et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,663,709 to Fujiwara et al.; rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,150,358 to Punj et al. ("Punj"); rejected claims 26, 28, and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being as unpatentable over Punj in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,872,157 to Hemmady et al.; rejected claims 27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Punj in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,703,477 to Adelman et al.; and allowed claim 21. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 21-33 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 20 is currently pending.

Applicants respectfully note that claim 20 was omitted from the Office Action Summary list of pending claims. However, Applicants further note that the Examiner's reasons for allowance recited elements of claim 20. See Office Action, page 10. Applicants thus assume that the Examiner intended to state that claim 20, not claim 21, is allowable. If this assumption is incorrect, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone prior to issuing a further Communication. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is allowable over the art of record.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 25, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 22-24 and 26-33, and the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection of claim 33 are rendered moot by Applicants' cancellation of those claims.

Conclusion

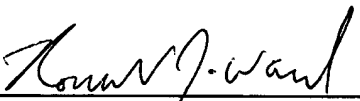
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claim.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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